In addition to the allowance indicated above, different categories of Extra Departmental Agents are also eligible to draw the following additional allowance:-

(i)	Delivery and Conveyance Allowance to Extra Departmental Branch Postmasters where applicable:	Rs. 75 p.m.
(ii)	Office Maintenance Allowance to Extra Departmental Sub Postmasters and Branch Postmasters.	Rs. 25 p.m.
(iii)	Fixed Stationery Allowance to Extra Departmental Sub Postmasters and Branch Postmasters.	Rs. 5 p.m.
(iv)	Fixed Stationery Charges of EDDAs & EDMCs performing delivery work	Rs. 2 p.m.
(v)	Cycle Maintenance Allowance wherever applicable.	Rs. 30 p.m.
(vi)	Ex-gratia bonus is payable to the Extra Departmental Agents on the basis of their actual emoluments.	
(vii)	Remuneration of Ed BPMs for doing PCO/Telegraph work.	Rs. 20 p.m. 0.40 paise per call for outgoing trunk calls and 0.50 paise per call for inward calls being messenger fee. 0.40 paise for inward and outward telegrams transmitted on phone.

(viii) Uttrakhand Division Allowance:

The Extra Departmental Agents of Uttarakhand Division are being paid an extra allowance of Rs. 40/- per annum in month of September every year provided they have worked continuously as Extra Departmental Agent since March of that year.

(ix) Group Insurance Scheme

The Extra Departmental Agents are also covered by Group Insurance Scheme with effect from 01.04.1992. The scheme is optional for the Extra Departmental Agents already in employment before 01.04.1992 and is compulsory for the Extra Departmental Agents appointed on or after 01.04.1992. The scheme gives a risk cover for Rs. 10000/- on payment of Rs. 10/- per month. Out of this, Rs. 3.50 goes for insurance cover and Rs. 6.50 is the savings components. If an Extra Departmental Agent retires or leaves his job, he is paid the accumulated savings component with interest. In case of death, the nominee is paid Rs. 10000/-plus the accumulated savings component.

(x) Ex-Gratia Gratuity

Rs. 6000/-The minmum mandatory service required for payment of Ex-gratia Gratuity is ten years.

(xi) Incentive to Extra Departmental Sub Postmasters and Branch Postmasters in connection with Mahila Samriddhi Yojna, 1993.

Rs. 10/- per month from the month in which third account has been opened so long as three or more accounts remain in operation. In addition, for subsequent accounts Re. 0.50 per account on recurring basis subject to a maximum of Rs. 300/- per month. Incentive of Rs. 10/- per month on opening three accounts is within the ceiling of Rs. 300/- per month fixed for additional incentive.

[English]

Guidelines to Indian and Foreign Airlines

*570. LT. GENERAL (RETD) SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is considering to issue mandatory guidelines to all Indian and foreign airlines directing them to have on board a Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TACAS);

(b) whether most of the flights of Indian Airlines and Air India are not equipped with Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System and also in some foreign airlines such system is not installed;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Ministry to instal TACAS in all flights of both Indian Airlines and Air India;

(d) whether the Ministry has come to know about non-compliance of its mandatory circular issued earlier to all domestic and foreign airlines in respect of installing a mode 'S' transponder as an additional aid to assist in navigation by and foreign as well as domestic airlines; and

(e) if so, the action taken against those airlines which have not complied with the said mandatory circular ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM):(a) DGCA has issued mandatory guidelines under Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) dated 24th April, 1997 for mandatory carriage of Airborne Collision and Avoidance System (ACAS). As per this CAR, aeroplanes having seating capacity of more than 30 or pay load capacity of more than 3 tons, shall be required to instal ACAS-II on or before 31.12.98. Aeroplanes having seating capacity of 10 to 30 or pay load capacity of 1 to 3 tons shall be required to install ACAS-I on or before 31.12.2003.

(b) and (c) Boeing-747 fleet of Air India is equipped with ACAS. Other aeroplanes of Air India and Indian Airlines are not equipped with ACAS. As regards foreign airlines, some airlines are not equipped with ACAS system, but will be required to instal the equipment for operation in Indian airspace by stipulated dates.

(d) The compliance of mandatory requirement of installation of Mode 'S' transponder was deferred due to non-availability of corresponding ground facilities at the Indian airports.

(e) Action against defaulting airlines will be taken after mandatory Circular of the DGCA comes into force w.e.f. 1.1.1999.

[Translation]

Management Committees for Railway Stations

*571. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy regarding setting up of management committees for Railway Stations under the Chairmanship of Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such committees are likely to be set up; and

(d) the reasons for delay in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Aluminium/Alumina Plant

*572 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some Bauxite based Aluminium/Alumina Plants in the country during the Ninth during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof public/private sector-wise and location-wise; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The Government have no proposal to set-up any new Bauxite based Aluminium/Alumina Plants in the country in public/joint sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan. As per the industrial policy, the aluminium industry has been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing with a view to encourage private investment in the aluminium sector.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Postal Services

*573. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS/ be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for participation of private sector in postal services;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) Participation of the private sector in Postal Services has been only marginal and that also in the role of augumenting the efforts of the Department of Posts. Private agencies have been participating in identified areas of activity like sale of stamps and stationery, transportation of mails and provision of additional public facilities at a few places like, Post Shop. However, with the exception of those limited areas, it is not at present envisaged to involve private operators as an organised sector in the activities of the Department of Posts, both in terms of the extant policy of the Government in the postal sector and from the point of view of fulfilling the inherent social purpose of the postal services.

In order to provide basic postal facility like sale of stamps and stationery extensively, the Department of Posts has been allowing licenced agents to operate under specified terms and conditions.

The following agency system are presently in operation:-

Licenced Postal Agency:

This scheme, in operation since 1985, allows licensed agents to sell stamps and stationery and book registered articles. The agent is paid a percentage commission on the amount of stamps and stationery sold, and commission per registered article booked.

Keeping in view the staff opposition to the scheme, no new licence under this scheme is being issued since 1997. However, the agents given licence before the scheme